

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /052 W

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R 091505Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2943

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 808

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ECON, CA

SUBJECT: B.C. CONSTRUCTION STRIKE ENDS

REF: VANCOUVER 703

1. COMBINED STRIKE-LOCKOUT OF 40,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS EMPLOYED BY 800 CONTRACTORS ENDED AUGUST 6 AFTER FINAL PICKET LINES WERE WITHDRAWN. STRIKE BEGAN JUNE 30 TYING UP ESTIMATED DOLS 2 BILLION IN ONGOING PROJECTS IN B.C. INDUSTRIAL INQUIRY IOMMISSIONER HAD RECOMMENDED 98 CENT HOURLY INCREASE RETROACTIVE TO MAY 1 AND 31 CENT HOURLY INCREASE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1. CONTRACT TO BE ONE YEAR FROM MAY 1/76 TO APRIL 30/77

2. INCREASE AVERAGES 12 PER CENT ON HOURLY BASE RATES RANGING FROM APPROXIMATELY DOLS. 9.50 TO 12.00 CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION IS REFUSING TO PAY MORE THAN 8 PER CENT UNTIL ANTI-INFLATION BOARD (AIB) APPROVAL RECEIVED. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL UNIONS OPPOSED, ALL UNIONS STATE THAT ALL WORKERS WILL BE BACK ON PROJECTS BY AUGUST 9. CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION SAYS ADDITIONAL INCREASE BEYOND 8 PER CENT WILL BE PAID INTO ESCROW ACCOUNT PENDING AIB RULING.

3. SETTLEMENT RECOMMENDED IS BASICALLY SAME ONE OFFERED BY IONTRACTORS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. INQUIRY COMMISSIONER S REPORT STATES "LITTLE TRUE BASIS "FOR STRIKE TO HAVE OCCURED. ISSUE OF JOINT BARGAINING BY UNIONS INVOLVED STILL NOT SETTLED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VANCOU00808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760306-0556
From: VANCOUVER
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760871/aaaacjty.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 VANCOUVER 703
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: B.C. CONSTRUCTION STRIKE ENDS
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006